

REMARKS

The Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's consideration of the election, the withdrawal of claims 3, 6, 8, and 11, and the rejoinder of claim 7. Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 5, to define the mesogen-containing organic group A₃ to the formula (XIII). Support for this latter amendment can be found at least at paragraphs [0128] through [0130].

New claims 12-17 depend from claim 1 and thus are patentable. Support for these claims can be found in the specification and the originally filed claims.

Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, and 10 were rejected as being not enabled. It is believed that the present amendment renders the rejection moot. Acknowledgement to that effect is requested.

Claims 1, 5, 7, 9, and 10 were rejected as being indefinite. One ground of rejection is premised on the assertion that the upper and lower limits to each variable in each claimed compound is omitted, and specifically identifies n₄₁. Claim 5 is the only claim of the above rejected claims that contains a variable n₄₁. The variable n₄₁ is, however, provided with an upper and lower limit, i.e., "n₄₁ indicates an integer of from 1 to 8" (see page 91, lines 7-8). Thus, n₄₁ cannot be zero, as asserted. In fact, n₄₁ is provided with an upper and lower limit. Because Applicants do not understand the rejection and believe it to be unsupported, Applicants cannot respond to this ground.

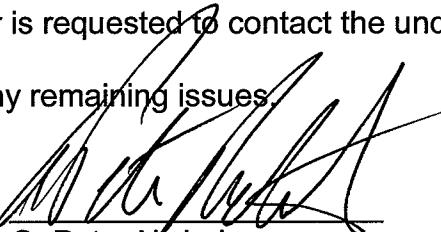
A second ground is that there is insufficient antecedent basis for R₅'s. While applicants do not agree, the term has been changed to simply recite R₅.

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Claims 1, 7, 9, and 10 were rejected under 102(e) as being anticipated by US 2004/0062970 to Nomura. In as much as claim 7 depends from claim 1 and claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the features of claim 5, to which no art was applied, it is believed that the rejection is now moot. Acknowledgement to that effect is requested.

Claims 1, 5, 9, and 10 were provisionally rejected under the obviousness-type double patenting grounds in view of claims 1-14 of Application No. 10/969530 (2005-0164063). Applicants cannot agree that at least one of the claimed combinations in Application No. 10/969530 recites the same proton exchange membrane structure as current claim 1. Therefore, Applicants request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 5 was not rejected in view of any prior art and thus, it is believed that all the claims are allowable. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned attorney at (312) 321-4276 to resolve any remaining issues.



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